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EDWARD GRIMESTON, TRANSLATOR AND SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The twenty-third volume of the *Dictionary of National Biography* contains six "lives" of persons bearing the surname Grimston, or its variants, Grymston and Grimeston. Among these is an Edward Grim(e)ston, who was the father of the subject of the present sketch. This Edward Grimeston *père* was born about 1528, and had a sufficiently eventful career. He was appointed comptroller of Calais in 1552, was taken prisoner at the capture of the town in 1558, and lodged in the Bastille, from which he escaped in the following year. Later in life he revisited France under pleasanter conditions, and in 1587 acted as secretary to the English ambassador in Paris. In 1557 he had bought from the crown the manor of Rishangles in Suffolk, and on his death in 1599 was buried in the parish church of that place.

He had two surviving sons, both called Edward.¹ The elder of these became member of Parliament for Eye in 1588, married Joan, daughter of Thomas Risby, and died in 1610. He was the father of the first Sir Harbottle Grimston, and grandfather of the second Sir Harbottle, the well-known parliamentary orator, who became speaker and master of the rolls.

But it is with the younger of the two brothers that this article deals. It is remarkable that he is not thought worthy of being

¹ Cf. Davy's *Suffolk Collections*, Vol. LVII, p. 204; *MS. Add.* 19, 133; and *Harleian Society's Publications*, Vol. XIII, p. 207.

mentioned in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, even among his father's descendants, for he was one of the most active and versatile of translators, when translation was in its golden age, and he was sergeant-at-arms during one of the most stirring periods of English parliamentary history. He has been, in fact, so completely forgotten that it was quite indirectly that my attention was drawn to him. In investigating the historical sources of Chapman's *Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois* and his two Byron plays I found that the dramatist had taken as his authority Grimeston's *General Inventorie of the Historie of France*, published in 1607, which is mainly an English version of Jean de Serres's *Inventaire Général de l' Histoire de France*, but which also contains passages from other writers, especially Pierre Matthieu and P. V. Cayet. Of this volume I gave some account in the *Athenæum* for January 10, 1903, and I propose to deal here with Grimeston's career and work on a wider scale.

The entries under his name in the British Museum *Catalogue* fall little short of twenty, including later augmented editions of some of his publications. These all contain more or less elaborate dedicatory letters to patrons, and some have in addition addresses to the reader. They thus furnish some internal evidence from which, in combination with meager external data, Edward Grimeston's career can be partly reconstructed.

I have not hitherto been able to ascertain the exact date of his birth, or any details about his early life. Perhaps some scholar, whose bent lies toward genealogical research, may be stimulated to investigate the matter more fully. There is no record, as far as I have been able to ascertain, of his having been a member of either of the universities, and it is not till he had reached manhood that his own utterances throw light upon his occupations and aims. We know, however, that at some period he married a daughter of "Strettly, *Armiger*."¹

As a member of a distinguished family, he naturally aspired to an important official career, and in the closing decade of the sixteenth century he was sent, like his father, to France, probably in some diplomatic capacity. This is evident from two of his own

¹ Cf. *The Visitation of Essex in 1612* (Harl. Soc. Publications, Vol. XIII, p. 207).

statements. In the dedication of the *General Inventorie* (1607) to the Earls of Suffolk and Salisbury he speaks of having retired to "private and domesticke cares" after "some years expence in France for the publike service of the State," and in his "Epistle to the Earl of Suffolk" prefixed to *The Estates, Empires and Principalities of the World* (1615) he enters into further detail:

After eight yeares spent for the publique service of this Estate in France, seeing my Starre without light in our Horizon, and the hopes of my service, or of further employments dead, I retired my selfe to this fruitlesse course of life [i. e., translation] to the end I might deceive the houres of my idle time, and leaue some testimonie to the world of my liues employment.

It was probably not long after Elizabeth's death that Grimeston's "idle time" began, for in 1604 his first translations were published, and in one of them, *The Naturall and Morall Historie of the East and West Indies*, he speaks of "the advantage I have gleaned from idle houres, in exchanging this Indian History from Spanish to English." The original is from the pen of the Spanish Jesuit, Joseph de Acosta, born in 1540, who spent upward of seventeen years in Peru and Mexico, and embodied the results of observations in his *Historia natural y moral de las Indias*, published at Seville in 1590. The earlier part of the work deals mainly with questions of physical geography and ethnology, mingled with curious speculations by the author; the latter and more valuable books are a first-hand record of Peruvian and Mexican customs and beliefs, which is of enduring interest and importance. Grimeston showed a happy instinct in choosing the work for translation, and his version has had the honor of republication (in 1880) by the Hakluyt Society. Sir Clement Markham, who edits the reprint, bears witness that, though "there are some omissions and occasional blunders, the translation is on the whole creditable and trustworthy." Unfortunately, however, he confuses the translator with Edward Grimeston, the comptroller of Calais, who had been dead for five years in 1604. A less important production of Grimeston's pen in the same year was *A true historie of the Memorable Siege of Ostend* (the siege which began in July, 1601, and ended in September, 1604), translated from

the French, and dedicated to the able lord lieutenant of Ireland, Charles Mountioie, whose name is turned into the complimentary anagram "One: A most Rich Iuel." The work which was published by Edward Blount,¹ contains two curious plates illustrating episodes in the siege.

Grimeston's next two translations belong to 1607, and were both printed by George Eld. One of them was a version, with some slight omissions, of Simon Goulart's² *Histoires admirables et memorables de nostre temps*. Goulart, who was a prominent French Protestant ecclesiastic, was as indefatigable a translator and compiler as Grimeston himself, and it was apparently at his suggestion that the collection of "Histories" was put into English. For in his dedication to Sir Walter Cope, Grimeston states that "at the request of my friend I undertooke the translation of this worke³ the title wherof shewes the subiect to be extraordinaire." The volume is in effect, a farrago of sensational episodes drawn from very varied sources, and it is somewhat surprising that an age so greedy of marvels was apparently satisfied with one edition of the work in its English dress.

Far more solid and memorable was the other product of Grimeston's pen in the same year.⁴ It was the translation, spoken of above, of Jean de Serres's *Inventaire Général de l'Histoire de France*, with additions from other sources. The work was published by Eld in a sumptuous folio of 1052 pages, followed by "a table of the most memorable things contained in this Historie," and adorned by woodcut portraits of the sixty-three kings of France, from Pharamond I to Henry IV. In the

¹ In the *Stationers' Registers* under date of September 20, there is the following entry: "Master Blounte Entred for his Copie vnder th[e] h[an]des of the Bishop of London and the wardens A remarkable and true historie of the siege of Ostend on eyther partie untill this present Provided that there be nothinge in yt offensive to the church and state here . . . Vjd."—Arber's *Transcript*, Vol. III, p. 271.

² On the title-page of Grimeston's translation he is wrongly called I. Goulart.

³ It was evidently doubtful whether the publication of the work in English could be sanctioned, for in the *Stationers' Registers*, under date of February 5, 1606-7, there is entered to Elde "a booke called *Histoires Admirables et memorables de nostre Temps* to be translated into Englishe, Provided that when it is translated he get further auctoritie before yt be printed."

⁴ The work must, however, have been begun early in 1606, for under date of March 3, 1605-6, there is the entry in the *Stationers' Registers*: "George Eld entred for copie vnder th[e] h[an]des of my lordes Grace of Canterbury and the Wardens. A booke called *The French Inventory* . . . Vjd."—Arber's *Transcript*, Vol. III, p. 315.

Dedication Grimeston states that he has chosen to translate de Serres as

an Author, whom (aboue mine own particular knowledge of this subiect) I have heard universally esteemed, for the most faithful, and free from affection, that euer toucht at that Argument; able to teach the vnlearned, to delight the learned, and draw to him as many Commenders, as Readers. The Maiesty, Graces, and Strength of whose worke, if I in my traduction haue in any way vnsinewed or deformed, I confesse a sinne against his graue.

In his "Address to the Reader" he again emphasizes de Serres's impartiality, declaring him to be "as free from affection and passion as any one that ever treated of this subiect," and gives in fuller detail his motives for translating him: first, to free himself from "the imputation of Idlenesse," which seems to have been with him an ever-present anxiety; secondly, "to give some content vnto such as either by their trauell abroad, or by their industrie at home, haue not attained vnto the knowledge of the Tongue, to read it in the originall;" thirdly, to encourage a patriotic spirit among his countrymen, who, seeing "the sundry Battailles woon by our kings of England against the French, and the worthie exploits of the English during their warres with France may bee incited to the like resolutions upon the like occasions." It is in his "Address to the Reader" also that Grimeston indicates that he is something more than a translator, that "to make the History perfect and to continue it unto these times," he has added extracts from "Peter Mathew" and other writers, but not to such an extent as to mar the balance and proportion of the work.

Thus Grimeston here displays something of the selective quality of the true literary artist; his materials are cleverly dovetailed together with an eye to dramatic effect, and his style, though not specially distinguished or individual, is lucid and well sustained. The volume had a well-deserved success. Among those who read it were Henry, Prince of Wales, whose copy is now in the British Museum, and Chapman, who, as has been already said, drew from it materials for three of his plays. By 1611 the edition, as Grimeston expressly states, was all sold out, and the printer asked him to prepare a new one, "and to

continew the History vnto these Times; whereunto I was the more willingly drawne, for that I would not have any other to put his sickle into my harvest, or to finish that which I had begunne." In its new form, which has the altered title of *A Generall Historie of France*, the work was brought down to 1610, ending with the coronation of the youthful Lewis XIII, whose portrait is added to those of his predecessors. Grimeston also, as he says in his "Advertisement to the Reader," laid himself open to the charge of having "exceeded the Lawes of Translation," by using "two partes of Arithmetike, that is Addition and Substraction." On the one hand he has added to de Serres's succinct narrative of events

the reasons and circumstances of many things, which hee did but onely touch at, . . . chiefly,—in matters of State, as Treaties, Compositions and Capitulations; wherevnto I haue added the Articles that the Reader may not onelie see what things were done, but may also know the reasons, and vpon what grounds they were concluded.

Here speaks the voice of the philosophical historian, as contrasted with the mere annalist; and equally characteristic of a sound historical method is Grimeston's wise economy in omitting "all things that doe not concerne France, or the French, referring the Reader to the History of those countries where they were acted." To this rule he makes one characteristic exception:

True it is that in the reignes of Charles the eight, Lewis the twelfth, and Francis the second, you shalle finde much written of the warres of Italy, the which although they were acted vpon another theater yet were the French chiefe actors in those Tragedies. Neither could I well omit them without leaving an imputation of idlenesse vpon those generous Princes, who imploied a great part of their reignes in making warre there, for their pretentions to the Kingdome of Naples and the Dutchy of Milan.

Idleness was evidently Grimeston's *bête noire*, and he regarded it as a greater slur upon "generous princes" than bloodthirsty wars of ambition!

The work in its new form extended to 1419 pages, followed by an "Alphabetically Table containing the principall matters mentioned in this Historie," and was again "given a good applause." The second edition did not sell out as rapidly as the first, but by

1624 the "book-sellers shops" were "unfurnished." Then, as Grimeston relates in a new "Advertisement to the Reader,"

the Printer desiring to bring this History the third time to the Presse, importuned me to continue it to these later times, whervnto I did the more willingly yeeld, being loath that any one should undertake my taske whilst God giueth me health and ability.

The addition takes the form of a supplement of 335 pages, continuing the narrative till the peace of Montpellier in 1622. Neither de Serres nor Pierre Matthieu was any longer available as an authority, but Grimeston states that he has collected his material

out of the best Authors I could get . . . there is nothing of mine owne: I haue related euerything plainly and truly without any passion, for the which my Authors shall be my warrant.

We have the same zeal for the truth as before, and the same aversion to diffuseness, which has led to the curtailment of "Some Articles in Treaties and Edicts," though without injury to "the full sense," and the omission of points more proper to divinity than to history; "else the Volume would have been immense, chargeable to the Buyer, and no great benefit to the Reader." Grimeston concludes his advertisement by speaking of himself as "almost out-worne with age and continuall toyle for the publicke," and though his later life proves the phrase somewhat exaggerated, the seventeen years since his translation of de Serres had first been published, had indeed been full of many-sided activities.

The favorable reception of *The Inventorie* had led him, on its completion, to undertake another equally burdensome labor. This was a translation of J. F. Le Petit's *La grande Chronique ancienne et moderne de Hollande*. It was entered in the *Stationers' Register* on August 6, 1607 (Arber's *Transcript*, Vol. III, p. 357), but it was not published till 1608. Eld and Adam Islip were the joint printers of the folio, which was illustrated by woodcut portraits of the successive "earls" of Holland and other prominent personages. In his dedication of the work to Lords Salisbury and Suffolk, who had already stood sponsors for *The Inventorie*, he states that J. F. Petit, whom he has chiefly followed,

is "an Author yet liuing and residing in our London." In an epistle "to the Reader" he lays further stress upon this by asserting that, if Petit's preface fails to convince anyone of "the truth of the historie," "he himsele is yet liuing here in London, and ready to satisfie any doubt that may arise." But Grimeston, *more suo*, "in order to make this historie more perfect, and to continue it" from 1600, where Petit's narrative ends, till 1608, had used "some other helpes." Chief among these he mentions Emanuel Demetrius, better known as Emanuel van Muerteren, a Flemish refugee, who had spent most of his life in London, and who had written a work upon the later history of his country, which appeared in Dutch, German, and Latin versions. Grimeston also acknowledges his obligations to "Monsieur Holtoman," a French gentleman who furnished him "with sundrie excellent discourses," and to Sir Peter Manwood, who had put at his service "some observations in written hand . . . gathered by Sir Roger Williams, when he first bore arms under Julian Romero, a Spaniard, in the great Commanders time." He has inserted these, he declares, "Knowing they will be a grace and beautie to the storie, and a benefit to the reader," and has thus "borrowed a little of the laws of translation." But in the bulk of the work he had been faithful to Petit, and this involved, in his opinion, an unfavorable contrast with the *Inventorie* of the previous year. He warns his readers not to expect

the succinct stile of Iohn de Serres, nor the fluent discourses of Peter Mathew, but (being written by a soldier, and, as he himself confesseth, in harsh vnpolished Wallon French) you will accept thereof in this course English habit, beeing bare, and without ornaments of Rhetorick, my chiefest care and studie hauing alwayes beene to enrich it with good matter, for their better instruction which are desirous to learne. I must confesse my stile is harsh and plaine, for so is my authors.

It is doubtful whether variations in Grimeston's style in translations from different originals are as obvious as he thought, but evidently he was not without feeling for the rhythm of good narrative prose, and was anxious to reproduce it on fit occasion.

Almost twenty years afterward, in 1627, a second edition of the *Historie of the Netherlands* was called for. Grimeston sup-

plied "sundrie necessarie obseruations omitted in the first Impression," especially relating to the exploits of the English troops in Flanders, though he could not give all the details that he wished.

I could neuer bee so happie, notwithstanding I had conference with some of the great Commanders and Captaines, and craued the assistance of their Writings and Observations in those warres, that I might doe them the honour due vnto their valour; but they had not obserued Cæsars rule, who fought by day, and writ in the night, as may well appeare by his memorable Commentaries.

Grimeston would also have liked, after his usual fashion, to continue the narrative up to the date of the reissue of the work, but, "the Printers hast preuenting" his desire, he had to leave this task to the hands of William Crosse, Master of Arts.

As "an Appendix to the History," to use his own words in the dedicatory letter to Sir Peter Manwood, Grimeston also published, in 1609, *The Low Country Commonwealth, Contayninge, An exact description of the Eight Vnited Provinces Now Made free*. This was a version of a sort of guide-book to the Netherlands by J. F. Le Petit, of which, however, the original has disappeared, and which is known to us only through the English translation. The introductory letter to Manwood is dated from Orleans, April 10, 1609, and as Grimeston speaks of having produced the work in "such houres, as I could well spare, from my more necessarie employments, since my coming into France," he had probably been sent across the Channel in some temporary diplomatic capacity. But he was soon to be permanently delivered from the idleness which was so repugnant to him. In the *Journal of the House of Commons*, Vol. I, p. 412, under date March 18, 1609-10, there is the entry: "Mr. Serjeant Wood died the last Night. This Morning Mr. Ed. Grimston sworn Serjeant to the King, and to attend in Parliament." Thus on the eve of the most exciting period in our parliamentary history the important office of sergeant-at-arms was bestowed on the worthy translator, and though on March 5, 1618, the reversion of the post was bestowed on John Hunt,¹ it will be seen that Grimeston continued in enjoyment of it up to the period of the Long Parliament.

¹ *State Papers Domestic*, 1611-18, p. 525.

Nearly all his publications after the date of his appointment bear his new dignity on the title-page, but it is absent in *The Generall Historie of Spaine*, translated from the French of L. de Mayerne Turquet, which was printed in folio by Islip and Eld in 1612. It was dedicated, like its predecessors, to the Earls of Salisbury and Suffolk, whose "favorable reception of my French and Netherland Histories hath added courage to my will to passe the Pyrennee Mountaines, and to take a suruey of this Historie of Spaine." In the address "to the Reader" Grimeston, as usual, adds interesting details. Having omitted in the second edition of de Serres's *History* "all matters acted by the Spaniards," he had promised within the yeare to publish this Historie of Spaine: wherein (notwithstanding my publike seruice and many other difficulties) I haue forced my selfe to keepe my word, and to giue you satisfaction, though it be with some preiudice to my health.

Mayerne Turquet's work, which traced the history of the Peninsula from legendary times till 1583, was a compilation from writings in various tongues. From 1530 onward Grimeston, as he tells us, did not follow him, for "I haue both inserted diuers things out of other Authors, whereof he makes no mention and haue related some more at large then he hath done." Moreover, he has added a continuation covering the events from 1583 till the summer of 1605, when the Earl of Nottingham, the lord high admiral, returned from an embassy to the Spanish coast. For this period Turquet was of no assistance, as what he had written on it remained in manuscript:

he hath finished the rest [i. e., after 1583] vnto these times. I my selfe haue seene it in his studie at Paris, but he hath not yet put it to the Presse, so as I haue been constrained to helpe my selfe out of the best that haue written of these later times, wherein I haue been assisted by some worthie gentlemen in the relation of some great actions.

Here again, as in the preface to the second edition of the *History of the Netherlands*, we see Grimeston's praiseworthy anxiety to get hold, where possible, of first-hand evidence from actors in the events of which he speaks.

The same desire for "actuality" is illustrated in a minor publication of 1612, a translation of Pierre Matthieu's *Histoire de la*

Mort déplorable de Henri IIIII, Roi de France. In the dedicatory letter to "Viscont Cranborn," heir to the Earl of Salisbury, he says that, though many "Pamphlets and petty discourses" have already appeared concerning the French king's tragic fate, yet he has

thought it well to make accessible to the English nation this account by Henry's owne Historiographer, who attended on him daily to record both his words and Actions, and who both could and hath written many particularities vpon this Accident, which were vnknowne to others.

It is noticeable that a panegyric poem included in the original, "Les Trophees De La vertu et De La Fortune De Henry Le Grand," is Englished, not by Grimeston, but by Jos[hua] Syl[vester], the translator of du Bartas. The sergeant-at-arms evidently thought verse outside his sphere, though most of his dedications are in the floweriest vein of rhetoric.

Two years later appeared *The History of Lewis the Eleventh*, a rendering of another of P. Matthieu's works, which presents no feature of special interest. It was followed in 1615 by a work with the exceedingly comprehensive title of *The Estates, Empires & Principallities of the World*. This folio of 1234 pages was a translation of a French work published for the first time in 1614 at S. Omer, and ascribed on its title-page to *le Sieur D. V. T. Y. Gentilhomme ordinaire de la Chambre du Roy*. The four capital letters were a transparent covering for d'Avity, the name of a courtier who produced a number of works in prose and verse. Grimeston, however, was probably ignorant of his identity, for on the title-page of the English version it is merely said to be "translated out of French," and in the address "to the Reader" the author is not mentioned by name. However this may be, Grimeston and the printer, Adam Islip, must have gone to work extremely expeditiously, for the translation is entered on the *Stationers' Registers* as early as December 2, 1614. The work ranges in leisurely descriptive fashion over the world from "China to Peru," including the "estates" of such remarkable sovereigns as "the King of Brama or Pegu," "the great Mogor," and "the King of Monomotapa." Grimeston, as usual, was not content with the rôle of a simple translator:

I have added in diuers places, wheras by my owne search and studie I have found somethings (happily not seene by him) which might beautifie the worke I have also in other places omitted some things wherein my Author had been abused by the relations of others.

Among the things omitted are the bulk of d'Avity's statements about the Reformation in Great Britain and Ireland, and the condition of the Roman Catholics under the first English Stuart king. On the other hand, the topographical description of Ireland is greatly enlarged, and in the account of the Spanish monarchy a curiously detailed list is added of the household expenses of the sovereign.

In the dedication of his work to Lord Suffolk Grimeston speaks of it as "the last labour of an old man," accomplished with difficulty "beyond the faculties of his weake bodie." As he lived at least twenty-five years later, his words must not be taken too literally; but, whether from failing health or pressure of public duties, Grimeston gave his busy pen a rest till 1621, when he published a translation of a moral handbook, *Tableau des Passions Humaines*, by the French Bishop Coeffeteau. More important, from our present point of view, than its contents is the fact that it contains a dedicatory letter to Buckingham, and a poem addressed to the translator by George Chapman. Grimeston approaches the favorite with the customary incense of adulation to "the most worthy to be most honored Lord," but he shows shrewd insight in offering to him, as one already furnished with "all outward honors," ample means "in this little Volume to all outward addition and illustration." In the light of Buckingham's future career the following words have a ring of tragic irony:

All men floting on the high-going seas of Fortune if destitute of Pylots, Cables, and Anchors; and moued only with tumultuous and vnbounded errors, in vncertaine and dangerous courses; may for a time perhaps in safety and pleasure enioy, and extend them: But at length (as t'were suddainly raiisht by the neckes) they are driuen helplessly head-long on the more horrible ship-wrackes. Since then your Lordships disposition to all goodnesse is in nature most sweete, most flexible, vouchsafe eare a little to artificiall and experimenc't advices, that may rectifie, accomplish and establish you in all the heights of your honors.

Why Chapman should have chosen to prefix an encomium to this modest undertaking of Grimeston's, rather than to one of his great historical folios, is hard to say. It would seem from the tone of the verses "to his long-lou'd and worthy friend . . . of his unwearied and honored labors" that both the translators had recently suffered from detractors of their work, and the poet urges his fellow-worker, to whom as dramatist he owed so much, not to weary in well-doing:

In short, All men that least deservings haue,
Men of most merit euer most depraue.
How ever (friend) tis in us must assure
Our outward Acts; and signe their passe secure.
Nor feare to find your Noble paines impeacht;
But write as long as *Foxe* or *Nowell* preacht;
For when all wizards haue their bolts let fly
There's no such prooffe of worth, as *Industry*.

Chapman's exhortation was apparently not without effect, for two years later Grimeston put forth another folio of 867 pages, *The Imperiall History. From the first foundation of the Roman Mōarchy to this present tyme*. This work, however, as Grimeston frankly states in his dedicatory letter to Cranfield, the lord treasurer, was mainly the continuation of another man's labors. The history of the emperors, written in Spanish by Pedro Mexia, and published at Seville in 1546, and continued afterward in Italian by L. Dulce and G. Bardi, had been Englished in 1604 by W. Traheron, and printed by Matthew Lowndes. Probably at the request of Lowndes, who published the new volume, Grimeston now revised and enlarged Traheron's work. In the biographies from Julius Cæsar to Maximilian I he made only slight changes, but those of Charles V, Ferdinand I, and Maximilian II he "cast into new Mouldes," while those of Rudolph II (after 1602), Matthias, and Ferdinand II are from his own pen. Thus the narrative was brought down to 1622, the new matter being based, according to Grimeston, on "the most Authentickall and Impartial-reputed Authours now extant, together with the confident relations of such as have been eye-witnesses of some of the late Accidents."

Except for the additions, already spoken of, to the histories of France and the Netherlands, Grimeston produced nothing further till 1632, when he translated *L'Honnête Homme, ou l'art de plaire à la cour*, by Nicholas Furet. This manual of the whole duty of a courtier was published in duodecimo by G. Blount, and was appropriately dedicated by the translator to Richard Hubert, groom porter to the king. It was followed in 1634 by *The Counsellor of Estate*, a version of a handbook of political philosophy from the pen of Pierre de Bethune, a younger brother of the great Duc de Sully. In the same year appeared a more notable work, *The History of Polybius the Megalopolitan. The five first Bookes entire: with all the parcels of the Subsequent Bookes vnto the eighteenth according to the Greeke originall*. The "Greeke Originall" was not, however, the direct source of Grimeston's volume, which was a version of a French translation of Polybius by L. Maigret. The first edition of Maigret's work was published at Paris in 1552, but had contained only the first five books and the fragments of four others. Grimeston's rendering is of the second enlarged edition, which appeared at Lyons in 1558. And if his work cannot claim immediate classical inspiration, it has at least the distinction of being virtually the earliest version of Polybius in the English tongue. For though in 1568 Christopher Watson had issued a black-letter quarto purporting to contain *The Hystories of the most famous and worthy Cronographer Polybius*, he had only translated the first book, and had filled up the rest of the volume with "an Abstract of the life & worthy acts perpetrate by oure puissant Prince King Henry the fift"! In Grimeston's translation of Maigret's version the first five books, and the fragments of books VI–XVII, with some omissions, were made accessible to English readers. It was no small labor to be undertaken by a man of advanced years, but it was stimulated, like so much of his work, by the desire to spread the knowledge of authentic records, whether of the present or of the past. Polybius appealed to his sympathies as

one who in the opinion of most men of iudgment hath been held to be very sincere, and free from malice, affection or passion. And to iustifie

the Truth thereof he protests that he was present at many of the actions and received the rest from confident persons who were eye-witnesses.

In 1635, the year following the publication of *The Counsellor of Estate* and *The History of Polybius*, Grimeston brought his long labors as a translator to an end by issuing *The History of the Imperiall Estate of the Grand Seigneurs*, a version of a French work which had appeared in 1626. It contains a dedicatory epistle to the first Sir Harbottle Grimeston, in which the sergeant-at-arms speaks of himself as creeping into his grave, and bequeaths the work as a "Verball Legacie" to his nephew. To the cares of advancing age may have been added financial anxieties, for in an account of all fees granted by James I and Charles I, with the arrears due thereon, drawn up on November 3, 1635, Grimeston's salary is entered as £18. 5, and half a year's payment is stated to be in arrear.¹ Nevertheless, Grimeston survived to attend in his official capacity the ill-fated Short Parliament, and at least the opening sessions in November, 1640, of the Long Parliament. It would seem that John Hunt, though apparently appointed as an additional sergeant, had become indignant at waiting in vain for the particular office of which the reversion had been promised him in 1618, and some serious altercation must have taken place between him and Grimeston, for in the *Journal of the House of Commons*, Vol. II, p. 26, under date of November 11, 1640, there is the entry: "Referred to Mr. Speaker to end the Difference between Serjeant Grimston and Serjeant Hunt." This tantalizingly brief entry is the last allusion to Grimeston that I have been able to trace. But it well may be diligent research would fill up the meager outlines of his biography as at present known to us. The object of this paper will, however, have been attained if it goes some way to show that Edward Grimeston's services to his generation in the sphere of historical literature have not hitherto received the recognition that they deserve, and that, while Lord Berners and Sir Thomas North are held in grateful remembrance, his name should not be forgotten.

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¹ *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic)* for 1635, p. 461.